



ISAAC – DOING JUSTICE

An interfaith organizing network of congregations and strategic partners working together to build a more just community

**September
2011**



GREETINGS! MY NAME IS ELDER DOUGLAS KING, AND I AM THE PASTOR OF GRACE COVENANT MINISTRIES AND YOUR NEW ISAAC PRESIDENT. It is with great humility that I accept this role to serve ISAAC and the greater Kalamazoo Community. I am honored to be in

a position that has been previously occupied by such dynamic individuals. We never know when God is going to call us into service; therefore, we must be ready to embark on our season of leadership and commitment when our clarion call sounds.

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Dr. Michael Rice
KPS Superintendent
Excerpts from Farewell for Rachael Tanner

IN 2008, ON OCTOBER 22 TO BE PRECISE, ISAAC HELD A COMMUNITY MEETING AT GALILEE BAPTIST CHURCH AND ASKED

COMMUNITY LEADERS INDIVIDUALLY FOR PLEDGES TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTION: Are you supportive of universal, high quality pre-school? I remember the night vividly. It was the only time that I have ever asked a Board for which I worked to leave a Board meeting early, and I did so because I wanted to participate in the ISAAC meeting, I felt

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Kathy Jones, PNC Bank
Excerpts from Farewell for Rachael Tanner

ISAAC IS ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIPS PNC IS INVOLVED IN WITHIN THIS NINE COUNTY MARKET.

ISAAC deserves commendation for their tremendous work in early childhood education, (such as the KC Ready 4's and the Nurse Family Partnership), the Youth Violence Prevention Task

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Building the Beloved Community

Listening Campaign

September: Listening Trainings *(choose one)*

- ◆ Saturday, Sept. 24th, 9:00-10:30am
- ◆ Monday, Sept. 26th, 6:30-8:00pm
- ◆ St. Luke's Episcopal Church
- ◆ 247 W. Lovell St., Kalamazoo

October: Beloved Community Celebration

- ◆ Sunday, Oct. 16th
- ◆ 3:30pm Music & Registration
- ◆ 4:00pm Interfaith Celebration
- ◆ First Congregational Church UCC
- ◆ 129 S. Park St., Kalamazoo
- ◆ *(enter on W. Michigan Ave.)*

November: Listening Campaign

- ◆ All month in every congregation & organization!

December: Discerning

- ◆ the most commonly voiced concerns

January: Issues Convention

- ◆ Vote on our top priorities for 2012



Become a Patron of the Beloved Community

(three simple ways)

1. Give \$100 to Build the Beloved Community
2. Become a GEM (Give Every Month) at \$20/month
3. Increase your current GEM donation

****Join by October 10th to be honored in our October 16th program**

Excerpts from Rachael Tanner's Farewell Message

I LEAVE YOU WITH AN IMAGE... OF WHO YOU ARE. YOU ARE RUTH.



Dr. Charles Warfield, President of the NAACP Metro Kalamazoo, gives a fond farewell & tribute to Rachael.

As you may recall, the Biblical character Ruth, her mother-in-law Naomi, her sister-in-law Orpah are all widows. So Naomi says to Orpah and Ruth, "Go back to your people! Leave me to my fate." Orpah concedes. She leaves.

Instead of bailing out, following the culturally acceptable path, Ruth insists on staying. She implores Naomi, saying "Wherever you go, I will go, and where you lodge I will lodge. Your people shall be my people..."

This is who **you** are. This is what you do. The leaders, donors, volunteers, staff, and supporters of ISAAC are like Ruth—fiercely committed to staying in the room when it's so much easier to go home. Dedicated to building the Beloved Community. Devoted to the idea that things can and will be different—but only if we stick together.

As I prepare to go to Boston, I need all the Ruths to stand up and renew their pledge! Show that you are committed to ISAAC as we begin a new future! REMEMBER: YOU ARE RUTH!

For complete text, please visit our website: www.isaackalamazoo.org



PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE *continued from page 1*

On that note, I extend to each of you the opportunity to respond to our community's call to take part in "The Beloved Community" event on Sunday, October 16, 2011. This continues to be a critical time for us to roll up our sleeves and come together to build a more just community. As we each face the many challenges that the days ahead will bring, we are provided numerous opportunities to strengthen our community by standing together until every victory is won.

As you consider various ways that you can make a difference, please consider contributing to ISAAC by becoming a Patron of the Beloved Community: giving a one-time donation, becoming a monthly GEM contributor, or increasing your current GEM gift. Little becomes much and much becomes even greater when it is placed in God's hands. **THE TIME IS NOW!** We are positioned to possess all the greatness that this Kalamazoo community deserves. There is **GREAT POWER** in our commitment to serve, because serving is what makes us great.

EMBRACING THE JOURNEY!

KATHY JONES *continued from page 1*

Force and the Housing Task Force, uniting individuals and families across all social and economic barriers toward common values so that every person can achieve his or her highest potential.

Rachael, we are sad that we won't be working together any longer but are thrilled and are celebrating your moving into the next chapter of your life, modeling the steps to achieving one's highest potential. ♦

DR. MICHAEL RICE *continued from page 1*

that strongly about the pre-school issue. Besides, I had promised Rachael that I would participate. My Board members followed me to Galilee just a few minutes later. In Ecclesiastes' terms, a time to organize.

In the beginning of 2009, ISAAC formed a committee, the Kalamazoo County Committee on Early Childhood Education, to expand the quantity and quality of pre-school in the county. Many of us, led by ISAAC's work in galvanizing community leaders' support, began the hard work of fleshing out a model for improving preschool in the county. In Ecclesiastes' words, a time to plant.

In 2011, the struggle for stable, adequate funding took on a different cast. The governor and state legislature began to consider the largest cuts since Proposal A went into effect in 1994. Rachael and the ISAAC team organized against the cuts, held a forum to educate the community, and began lobbying trips to Lansing. I remember one day getting out of my car in a Lansing parking garage, next to the Capitol, only to bump into Rachael, who was leading a group of ISAAC lobbyists at the Capitol that day. And while school districts ultimately were hit with substantial cuts in the last couple of months, these cuts could have been much worse had it not been for the lobbying of Rachael and the ISAAC team of warrior angels that she had organized. A time for defending and protecting. ♦

"these cuts could have been much worse had it not been for ...the ISAAC team of warrior angels"

ISAAC asked these new GEMs...
 Why are you a GEM?



As the Director of Kalamazoo County Great Start Collaborative, it is important for me to be an ISAAC donor due to the significant work that has been done on behalf of early childhood education. The ISAAC Early Childhood Education task force

has been instrumental in sustaining funding for Nurse Family Partnership, initiating the development of Kalamazoo Ready 4's, and restoring funding for the Great Start Readiness Programs. These are all programs that are the work of the Great Start Collaborative and resources in preparing children for school.

Jacquie Eatmon
Great Start Collaborative

What inspired me to become a GEM donor was becoming a member of People's Church and seeing how involved some of our members are with ISAAC. Also, the current political climate in Michigan has motivated me to get involved with an organization like ISAAC that cares about children and education. Giving a small amount monthly felt like the least I could do.



Marcy Ohs
People's Church



I became involved in ISAAC on the Early Childhood Education Task Force and the Action for Education Summit. I truly believe in ISAAC's

commitment to social justice through the work of the people of this community. Kalamazoo is one of the best places to live and work, and ISAAC is fighting to keep it that way.

Toby Ward (pictured with wife Nora),
First Congregational Church,
United Church of Christ



For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matt. 6:21

If you treasure social justice, Give Every Month to invest in ISAAC as we work together with congregations & strategic partners to build a more just community!

CONTACT ISAAC TO INVEST
by credit card, electronic funds transfer, check or cash
269-341-4213 ♦ isaackalamazoo@gmail.com
www.isaackalamazoo.org

Monthly Amount	GEM Investment Level
\$5-24	Emerald
\$25-49	Ruby
\$50-100+	Diamond

If you are already a GEM, can you increase your investment?



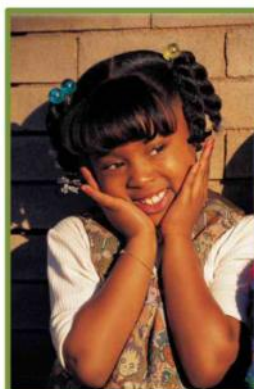
ISAAC Interfaith Strategy for Advocacy & Action in the Community
412 East Michigan Ave., Kalamazoo, MI 49007-3888

Kalamazoo County
Great Start Collaborative
An early childhood system building program



**Invest in me,
I may be your boss one day.**

All Kalamazoo County children (0-5) have the social, emotional, physical and intellectual foundation to be successful in education and in life.



The Great Start Collaborative was created to assure that every young child in Michigan has a great start and arrives at the kindergarten door healthy and ready to succeed. As a community we want to support families in assisting the children to reach their greatest potential and be a contributing, productive member of the future workforce.

**Early Childhood --
Our Best Investment**

Contact the Great Start Collaborative at (269) 385-1580 or jeatmon@kresa.org www.kresa.org

New Gamaliel Executive Director visits ISAAC



Ana Garcia-Ashley with ISAAC President Pastor Doug King, Rev. Matt Laney, & Vaikai Brown

Ana Garcia-Ashley, new director of the Gamaliel Foundation, is the first woman of color in America to head a national community organizing network. As the lead organizer of MICAH in Milwaukee, Wisconsin, she led one of the most successful campaigns in Gamaliel's history: winning a \$500 million commitment from local banks to invest in affordable housing. Read more about her at www.Gamaliel.org



Porch Patrol July 30



Pastor Richmond Tyson fires up ISAAC walkers at From the Bible Church.

Austin & Devonnte listen door-to-door to residents' concerns.

THANK YOU to our funders for investing in ISAAC!



A strong community is our greatest asset.

We believe communities are built on the goodwill and energy of the people who belong to them. That's why we're proud to support ISAAC's pursuit of advocacy and social justice.

STOP BY ANY BRANCH
PHONE 1-877-CALL-PNC
VISIT pnc.com



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*Prudential
wants to thank
ISAAC
for taking a stand
and making a
difference.*

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